

REMARKS

By this amendment claims 1, 2, 10, 15, 23 and 27 have been cancelled and the remaining claims amended. Claim 32 has been added. Reconsideration and re-examination of the application, as amended, are requested.

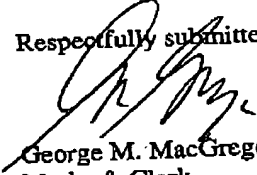
In the Office Action dated March 24, 2004 the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 10 to 16, 18, 23, 27 and 29 to 31 as follows; claims 10 to 16, 18 and 29 to 31 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,596,576 and claims 1, 2, 23 and 27 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ram et al. (U.S. Patent 6,038,309) in view of Margulis et al. (U.S. Patent 6,243,449).

The Examiner has also stated that claims 3 to 9, 17, 19 to 22, 24 to 26 and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner will note that claims 1, 2, 15, 23 and 27 have been cancelled. The limitations of previous claims 1 and 2 have been incorporated in new independent claim 6. The limitations of claims 10 and 15 have been incorporated into claim 17. Likewise, claims 23 and 27 have been cancelled and the limitations found therein have been incorporated in claim 28. New claim 32 defines a method of controlling telephone calls in a mass calling event of a scope comparable to system claim 28.

In view of the foregoing it is believed that all of the claims now on file are in condition for allowance. Favourable reconsideration and action to this end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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